

Volume 9, Edition 12

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club **WIRELESS**



December 2005



SUITSAT AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE READY FOR "LAUNCHING" FROM THE ISS

VOMARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The VOMARC Christmas party will be December 14 at the Depot Restaurant. The no-host

bar (wine and beer) will open at 6pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Dinner will include salad, choice of chicken or a mushroom pasta dish, and

dessert. The cost will be \$30 for pasta and \$34 for chicken per person. There is a corkage fee for wine brought in.

Sign up now. You may make your reservations by e-mailing Eileen (Eileen@vom.com), or by calling Jim at 935-7441. Reservations are due by December 9.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

The holidays are upon us once again. The big news is that we have a new president, Dan, KG6LGN and a new vice president, Dave, KD6FIL.

I have enjoyed my time as president and wish to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this club what it is. If you look at all the activities this club puts on each year, its evident that we are certainly a "cut above" many others. Hamfest, ham classes, field day, community support, interesting meetings, emergency communications, what did I forget? All these take time and effort. Please consider stepping in and helping our new leadership.

We will induct our new officers at the Christmas party at the Depot Hotel restaurant. See the information in this newsletter. Sorry about the close timing, but try to let Eileen or me know if you are coming and your menu selection. You can pay at the restaurant.

I gave the ARRL Sweepstakes

contest a try a couple of weeks ago. Its purpose is to contact hams in the US, Canada and US territories, much like Field Day.

Managed 185 Q's and a lot of multipliers. If you have never contested, this is one to try.

Hope to see you all at the Xmas party and again its been a great run and my thanks to all.

Happy Holidays & 73,
Jim, K6UUW

EAGLE PROJECT REPORT

I have been working with the AMSAT Eagle Sensor Team for some time, developing sensors and electronics for the next AMSAT satellite. The team has had some setbacks, and a new leader and other help is needed. This is an opportunity to do some real cutting edge work that benefits Ham Radio, all for no pay. See below.

If anyone in VOMARC is interested, please contact me directly.

For info on the Eagle project, see:
http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/eagle/Eagle_Fall_2004.php

It seems that I am the leader of the team for the moment, by default. Therefore, I am sending this out to find out how everyone stands about restarting the group.

A recap:

Late last year, Herb told us that we had a good chance of being able to fly an experiment on SuitSat, a satellite created out of an out-dated Russian Orlan space suit.

We put Eagle development on hold, and began an intensive effort to develop a sensor test platform to fly on SuitSat. The idea was that we needed some real data on how some of the PIR (passive infra-red) sensors would behave in space. This info would then be used to evaluate the alternatives to the very high priced commercial Horizon Crossing Indicator (HCI) from Servo Corp., for use in Eagle and future AMSAT birds.

We designed, built, debugged, and wrote software for a small box with six sensors (4 PIR, 1 optical, and 1 temperature), a PIC processor, SRAM memory, and communications interface for the SuitSat HCU computer.

We were ready to start radiation, vacuum, RF, and vibration testing, when we got word that NASA would not approve our experiment. Maybe next time.

Herb had the hardware, and was doing the final mechanical assembly. Between Herb's too many commitments and the rest of us feeling deflated, nothing much happened for a few months.

So here we are:

Lou, W5DID and the rest of AMSAT want to know what we are doing. They need to spec out the physical aspects of the sensors very soon for Eagle. Much of the SuitSat work will move right over to Eagle.

Lots more needs to be done.

Our team has lost Steve, K2IYQ (SK), Henry, KK6PH (SK), and Herb, K6QXB, who resigned. John, KD6PAG and I are willing to resume Eagle sensor development. Alan, N1AL may, or may not be able to participate. There are several others available to help, but most have limited technical background.

What we need most, I think, at this time, is someone who can take over managing the group and liaison with the AMSAT groups in Orlando and Houston. This person must be sufficiently conversant in the technology to guide the process and relate to the AMSAT, but not necessarily to do any engineering. More technical folks would be valuable, too.

What next?

If you have an idea of who could be our new fearless leader, please chime in. I think we need to set up a meeting SOON to map out how we can proceed.

Lou will come out for a meeting to get us rolling, but first we have to have ourselves together.

So, please give it some thought, and let me know if you are interested in helping.

Thanks, and 73s,

Mike
WB6TMH

W6WXU's MARE ISLAND VISIT REPORT

Larry & I went & toured Mare Island today. While there, we went to the MI museum, which is not yet open to the public. Ham radio got us in. We talked to Ken A. Zadwick, NE6Y, who is the president of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, involved with the MI ham club and also a MARS member. He took us up to the club radio room over the museum & showed us around. I asked him if any of their club members were into slowscan TV & he said they have 2 or 3 that are and then got to talking about Digitrix (I think that was it). Anyway, thinking of the meeting suggestion for slowscan, I thought maybe he might be able to put the club in contact with someone from their club who would be willing to do a presentation on slow scan for VOMARC.

Thought you might like to visit Mattie's website.
www.AE7MC.co.uk. Kind of cool

Mattie Clauson, AE7MC, who is an ISS fan, finally made a solid contact with Bill MacArthur aboard the Space Station. To

hear her contact, check out her ham website at www.AE7MC.co.uk. The website is very interesting, with links to other ham websites and information on earthquakes, volcanoes, FEMA, ARISS, among other subjects.

Joan, W6WXU

VOMARC MINUTES OCTOBER 19, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. In the absence of the president, Jim Hill, K6UUW, who is traveling the country, and the vice president, Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, the meeting was chaired by Darrel Jones, WD6BOR. There were 15 in attendance. Ed Caine, K6OFR, arrived late due to the birth of his first great grandchild, Victoria Lynn Caine, born at 5:08PM today, October 19, 2005, 9 lbs. 16 oz, 21.5" long. Congratulations Ed, you can't be old enough to be a great grandfather.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter. The secretary reported that the subscription for the club listing in World Radio is up for renewal. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the club will renew the listing.

The treasurer, Ken McTaggart, N6KM, is also out of town, so there was no treasurer's report.

The radio officer was not in attendance, so there was no

report there, nor a report of the Eagle Team activity.

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, gave the ACS report. She reminded everyone that there are online classes for emergency preparedness that we all must complete if we have not already done so. These can be accessed through the website Sonoma-County-ACS.org. They are IC 100 & IC 200. The EOC was activated last Monday during net time.

It is time to organize net controls for both VOMARC and ACS nets for next year. At the November meeting there will be sign up sheets for net control. Also, there will be a sign up sheet for the December meeting/installation of officers to be held at the Depot Hotel on December 14, 2005. Everyone should be ready with their dinner choices and their check book.

There was discussion of organizing the committees for the HamFest for next year. The date will be moved to the third Saturday in April, 2006, to avoid conflict with the DX convention which is the fourth Saturday in April. The date for the VOMARC Hamfest is April 15, 2006. (Note: The date has been changed to April 29, 2006.) The VE schedule was discussed and dates will be published later.

The following VOMARC calendar was posted on the black board during the meeting:

November 16, 2005: meeting. Check the website for location. Nomination and election of officers. November 5, 2005, breakfast, Izza's

December 14, 2005: Dinner and party at the Depot Hotel. December 3, breakfast, Izza's

January 18, 2006, meeting, Sonoma Fire Department. January 7th, club breakfast at Izza's.

February 15m 2006, meeting Sonoma Development Center. Elmer Saturday, February 4th, 2006, after the club breakfast.

March 15, 2006, meeting, SFD. Club breakfast March, 4, 2006, Izza's. March, 2006, license class. Date to be set later.

April 19, 2006, meeting SDC April 15th, Ham Fest, Sonoma Vet's Building. (Note: the date has been changed to April 29) April 1, 2006, club breakfast, Izza's.

May 17, 2006, meeting SFD. May 6, club breakfast, Izza's, and Elmer Saturday.

June 21, 2006, meeting SDC, June 3, club breakfast, Izza's. June 24th & 25th, Field Day.

July 19, 2006, meeting SFD. July 1, club breakfast, Izza's, (Fourth of July Parade, info in future meetings)

August, 16, 2006, meeting Picnic, probably Sonoma Police

Department. August 5, breakfast, Izza's. Elmer Sat.

September 20, 2006, meeting, SDC Sept 2, breakfast, Izza's. Sept 11, contest - more info at future meetings. Vintage Festival Parade, More info and date later.

October 18, 2006, meeting, SFD. October 7, breakfast, Izza's. Pacificon & license upgrade classes. More info and dates later.

November 15, 2006, meeting SDC. November 4, breakfast, Izza's. Elmer Sat.

December 2006, Dinner and installation of officers. Date to be set later. December 2, breakfast, Izza's.

New Business: Meeting suggestions for next year. The following suggestions were presented and discussed.

Antenna projects and program. Slowsan TV. DX in general. Police Ride along. Winlink presentation by Ken Proctor, also APRS, etc. Kit building session. Tube sorting and education. Presentation by Dale and Paula on their travels and how ham radio has enhanced them. ACS drill for those who can't make Monday nights. Have an Elmering program. If there are other suggestions, please contact Darrel, WD6BOR, or any of the officers.

It was moved and seconded and passed that the club begin an

official Elmering program to encourage those who get their licenses to actually get on the air and become active in the ham community. We need to appoint an elmering coordinator to oversee the elmers and be sure new hams are matched with an Elmer. We will have an Elmer Saturday (Elmersat) once a quarter after the breakfast on the first Saturday of the month. The need for reaching young people to get them interested in ham radio was discussed. This would include children, teens, and young adults. It was suggested that talks be given to the Boy Scout troops in the Valley. It was also suggested that the ARRL Hamster (Ham Youngsters) site be accessed and information pulled off the site to help us with ideas on how to reach kids. It was, also, suggested that we have a novice group meeting for new hams just prior to the regular club meetings to answer questions from new hams and help them with radio gear and on-the-air techniques as well as have the Elmersats. The consensus is that we need to be proactive.

Next years license was discussed. Since this year most of the people who signed up came, got their books and never came back to class, it was decided that the class would be changed to a week end with it being either a one day or day and a half class and test at the end of the class.

Meetings will officially be 7:30PM to 9:00PM. There will be an effort to keep all programs within that time frame. Those who wish to stay later to visit will be able to do so.

We are still trying to get a weekend camp out at Dillon beach organized for a contesting party (or at least a fun time transmitting). Stay tuned for further notice.

Pacificon report: Jan Bush and Darrel Jones took Steve Todd's gear down to sell at the swap meet. They sold some and gave away lots. When Ken gets back in town, the money will be turned over to the treasurer. Other members attended the antenna lectures. They were informative, although more tech-ie than practical.

Steve Marler announced that October 30, 2005, is the Fire Station annual open house from 12PM to 4PM. VOMARC is invited to attend either as club representatives with a club table, or just to hang out.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Brady, W6WXU, Secretary

VOMARC REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2005
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 by President Jim Hill.

Officers for Next Year:

The following officers were unanimously elected:
President: Dan KG6LJN
Vice President: Dave KD6FIL
Secretary: Joan W6WXU
Treasurer: Ken N6KM
Radio Officer: Mike WB6TMH

Treasurer's Report: Our bank balance is \$1,016.62. Income for the year exceeded expenses by \$189.

ACS Report: The Hospital Drill will be held tomorrow, November 17 at 8am. Jan AE6FQ will be at the Hospital and 3 or 4 operators will be at the EOC. Please be at your location by 7:45am.

There will be a call out drill before the end of the year. Be ready. Be sure to print out the new call out info. When the Police department moves in December 2006, our EOC will move to the Fire Department. When we move back to the Police Department some equipment will stay at the Fire Department and that will become an alternate EOC. Ken is on a committee to design the new EOC which will include computer access with the City and outside access to the EOC without entering the Police Department.

Dan is net control for December.

VE Session November 12:
One candidate passed
Technican, General and CW.

Hamfest 2005: Hamfest will be held on April 29, 2005 at the Vets Building.

HAM Class: This year we will adopt a week-end format for our annual HSM class: Eight hours on Saturday and 4 hours on Sunday followed by the examination. Napa has been using this format successfully and we hope to get them to help us. Some hospital personnel are interested in getting their HAM licenses.

Christmas Party: Our 2005 Christmas party will be held at The Depot Restaurant on December 14, starting at 6pm. There will be a choice of chicken or pasta with an open bar. We need reservations by the Friday before.

Announcements: ARRL is requesting donations of toys for kids in the hurricane areas. The deadline is November 24. If you get them to Jim he will send. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

SALE PAGES

Kantronics All Mode Communicator, a TNC that will do Morse (CW), RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR and Packet on HF and Packet on VHF/UHF. With manual and in good working order. \$50.00 N6KM, Ken, 707-938-2626

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Yamaha organ. Beautiful sound and a beautiful piece of furniture.
Jim, K6UUW (935-7441)

A CLOSING NOTE

The newsletter should reflect the interests of all members of VOMARC, and not just be a copy of the minutes of the last meeting and routine reports of officers, however important they might be.

It takes only a few minutes to email the editor a note (wd6bor@vom.com) telling about a recent amateur radio activity.

If you have operated in a contest or built a little project, the rest of the club would like to know the details.

If you have a favorite place to visit for the weekend and would like to operate from that spot, invite the other club members with a note in the newsletter.

If you have a piece of radio or electronics gear that you don't need any longer, put in an ad so someone can buy it.

If you've always wanted a particular type of microphone or Morse key, let the other club members know, and perhaps they will have just what you are looking for.

Got a photo of your shack, yourself operating from a boat or mountain peak? Got a sketch of a wire antenna that you think

works well? Send them along and share what you enjoy about this hobby with the rest of us.

Your editor would love to be in the position of having to pick and choose from submissions by VOMARC members for future editions of the wireless. Just send them along. Ed.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 9 EDITION 12

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President

Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN - Vice-President

Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary

Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair

Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS

Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister

Joel Nadler, NN6J - VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:

<http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

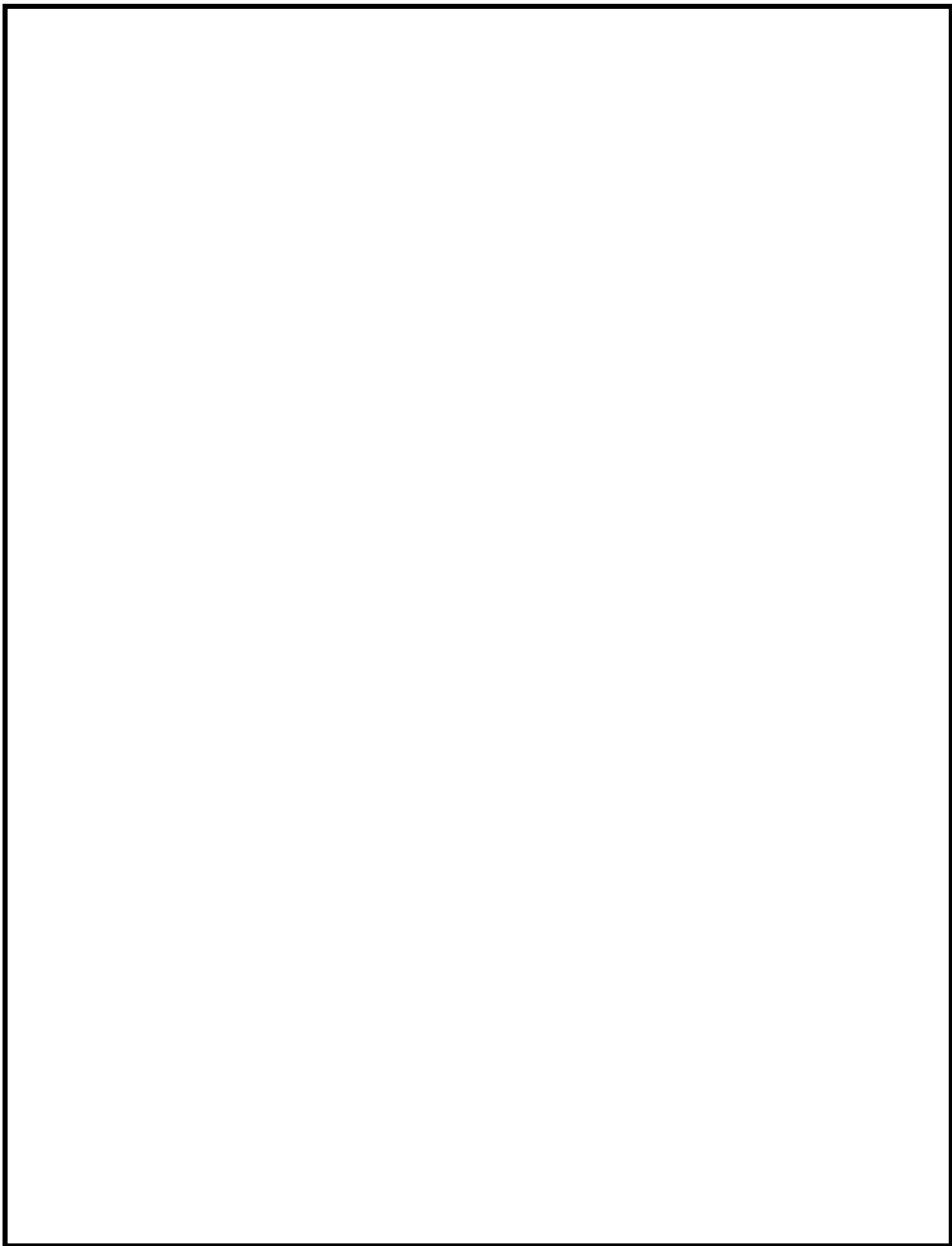
Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon
ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE VOMARC CHRISTMAS PARTY IS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE
DEPOT HOTEL, 241 FIRST STREET WEST, SONOMA
CU THERE!**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2006 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

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Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to:

VOMARC